

# Commission race shifts to high gear

Thursday, July 27, 1978

(F77B)

Two Democratic candidates for county commission in the 19th district differ in their campaign platforms. Albert A. Keenan and Anthony E. Tedesco are vying for the Democratic nomination in the August 8 primary. The winner will face Republican incumbent Lillian Moffitt in the November election. Ms. Moffitt is unopposed in the primary. The district includes southeast Bloomfield Township, Franklin, Bingham Farms, parts of Farmington Hills, Southfield and western Beverly Hills.

Keenan, 54, of 6750 Franklin Road, operates an insurance agency in Southfield. He has not previously run for public office. He has been vice-president of the Wing Late Farms Homeowner's Association and a board member of Boy Scouts of America. Tedesco, 57, lives at 27065 Arden Park Circle. He is employed by the Oakland County Road Commission. Tedesco has not previously run for office. He is past president of the Catholic Central Club and a member of the board of directors. He is a member of the Carmelot Court Association. The candidates were asked to respond in writing to the following questions:

1) What one area in county government deserves top priority in the coming two years? Why?

2) In your opinion, should the independent road, parks and recreation and drain commissions be brought under the control of the county executive? Why or why not?

INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS: I feel that the road, parks and recreation and drain commissions should be appointed by the county executive with the approval of the county commissioners. My reason being that, at the present time, he is not responsible to anyone but themselves, with indirect and loose control by the state. Their budgets is controlled by the county board; however, budgeting does not control spending or priorities. Agencies appointed by the executive, and approved by the commission, would be removed from the arena of partisan politics and, hopefully, avoid the suspicions of self service. I feel that some agencies would welcome the relief of this arrangement, and that it would allow them to function more efficiently.

DEALINGS WITH DETROIT: On a scale of one to ten, I would say six. Maybe this is a good score coming from a Monday quarterback like myself, but the things I find fault with are things like SEMTA and SEMCOG. In SEMTA, for instance, I feel there is a great need for mass transportation, but up until now, SEMTA has not served the needs of Oakland County, nor has SEMTA produced a viable plan to do so in the future.

3) How do you think the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and the county administration have handled dealings with the City of Detroit and Mayor Coleman Young? How would you improve them? Would you improve them?

KEENAN TOP PRIORITY: One area that should have top priority in the coming

two years is environment control. I feel there should be a strong land use bill which would protect Oakland County's wooded lands, farms, rivers, lakes and streams. The many beauties we have must be preserved so that future generations can enjoy them as much as we do. I can't think of why we have chosen to live here. Also, think of all the people that wished they had what we have. I feel many communities have been raped and have realized, much too late, that their trees and water have been replaced by steel and concrete. If the so called "progress" continues, like in Troy and Southfield, we will have to go to Detroit to get an attack of hayfever.

Oakland County does not have equal voting rights. Oakland County represents approximately 22 per cent of Michigan's population, yet it has only 18 per cent voting power. We have other counties or major neighboring cities dictating to Oakland County. We must have our own voice in charting our own destiny, neighboring cities and counties do not know our needs. They do not understand our problems. It is presumptuous to assume that they are working against us. With regard to Mayor Coleman Young—he wants a subway. I feel it is an extravagant and flamboyant way to spend tax dollars. If he wishes a subway, we should buy him a shovel.

TEDESCO TOP PRIORITY: To maintain county spending within the budget. From the economist standpoint, the future does not appear bright along with the tax revolt. INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS: I feel at present they should stay as is. I do see room for improvement in one of these departments. DEALINGS WITH DETROIT: The best thing they did was to turn Wayne County down. I would not improve them.

## Obituaries

**MARGARET CRAMER**  
Margaret Percival Cramer, 59, of Farmington, died July 12. Ms. Cramer, a retired school teacher from the Berkley and Bloomfield Hills schools systems, is survived by her sister Lydia Grady; nephew Franklin M. Grady; and niece Ann Graham Hamby, all of North Carolina. Arrangements for memorial services were made by the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home.

Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, died July 13 in Botsford General Hospital. Services were July 15 in the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia with the Rev. George A. Fleischer officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

**FRED ALBRECHT**  
Fred H. Albrecht, 70, of 20804

Mr. Albrecht was a builder of homes. A four-year resident of the community, he is survived by his wife Catherine; daughter Nancy Krinsky; sister Evelyn Lahay; brothers Arthur of California and Wilbur of Charlevoix; and two grandchildren.

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